

**Washington State Planning Grant on Access to Health Insurance**  
**OVERVIEW OF POPULATION-BASED SURVEYS – Work in Progress**

**Table 1. Summary**

Survey Name (Code)	Years Conducted Since 1990	Sponsorship	Survey Design	WA-specific data?	Periodicity	Over-Sampled Populations	Public Use Data
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)	1994-present	CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State-based</li> <li>• Telephone interviews</li> <li>• Number of states stratified samples to allow regional estimates</li> <li>• Monthly sample size for all states 12,306 (mean for states 236.7)</li> <li>• Allows examination of monthly trends</li> <li>• Yields a representative sample of households with telephones</li> </ul>	Yes  Permits analysis at the level of 33 local health jurisdictions in Washington	Monthly		Yes
Current Population Survey – March Supplement (CPS)	1980-on	Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) and Computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI)</li> <li>• 50,000 households</li> <li>• Collects data on all persons in household 15 and older</li> <li>• Survey has been conducted for more than 50 years</li> </ul>	Yes	Annual, each March		Yes
Community Tracking Survey (CTS)	Household Surveys: 1996; 1998; 2000-1 data collection currently underway  Followback survey : 1997-98, 1999-2000	Center for Studying Health Systems Change  RWJF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household survey administered primarily by telephone, some in-person interviews were included to represent families without working telephones</li> <li>• 60 communities –MSA and non-metropolitan sites</li> <li>• 12 randomly selected to serve as case study sites (larger sample size to report community-specific estimates)</li> <li>• national representation</li> <li>• The total sample will consist of about 60,000 individuals in 33,000 families. Families are defined as insurance</li> </ul>	Seattle, WA is one of 12 case study areas; however state-wide estimates are not possible	Two year intervals	“High need” individuals identified in the first round interview may be over-sampled in longitudinal sample	Yes  ----- Possible to request access to restricted data files

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			Families are defined as insurance units, or all individuals in a family that can be covered by a typical private health insurance policy (usually spouses and other dependents less than age 18). Questions were asked about all adults in the family as well as one randomly sampled child.				
Family Health Insurance Survey (FHIS)	1993, 1997	RWJF and RAND	<p>In 1993:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telephone survey (in person interviews those without a phone)</li> <li>• Ten state samples with a total of 27,000 families</li> </ul> <p>In 1997:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telephone survey (in person interviews those without a phone)</li> <li>• Conducted in WA State only</li> <li>• 5,322 families completed shorter version of interview, with data on health insurance coverage, employment and income</li> <li>• 2,537 completed full interview.</li> </ul>	Yes	Twice, but the 1997 survey instrument was slightly different	1993 over-sampled uninsured and Medicaid recipients; 1997 over-sampled uninsured, and Medicaid and BHP enrollees	1993 is public; 1997 data is not. WA State has the 1997 data
Medical Expenditure Panel Survey-Household Component (MEPS-HC)	1996,1997, 1998	AHRQ and NCHS/ USDHSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In person interviews</li> <li>• Nationally representative</li> <li>• The 1996 MEPS-HC sample is a nationally representative subsample of the prior year's National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)</li> <li>• Links its components to the National Health Interview Survey, which enhances the analytic capabilities of both surveys</li> <li>• 10,500 families and 24,000 individuals</li> </ul>	No	Annual	Policy relevant population subgroups, such as functionally impaired adults, children with activity limitations, expected high-cost individuals, expected low-	Yes

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>across the U.S.</li> <li>Six rounds of interviews over 2 years</li> </ul>			income families, Hispanics and Blacks	
National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)	1957-on; redesigned in 1995	NCHS/ USDHSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing national survey utilizing a stratified multi-stage sample design</li> <li>36,000 to 47,000 households per year, including approximately 106,000 individuals</li> <li>Sample size is too small to support state estimates</li> </ul>	No	Yearly	African Americans and Latinos	Yes
National Survey of American Families (NSAF)	1997, 1999	Urban Institute (Assessing the New Federalism) *Consortium of private funders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Household telephone surveys</li> <li>Non-telephone households included</li> <li>13 states and national samples</li> <li>over 44,000 households yielding information on over 100,000 people</li> </ul>	Yes, Sampled 5,757 adults in WA; additional sample of most knowledgeable adult interviewed for children	Two year intervals	Below 200% poverty line (18,000 households – 52% of target sample)	Yes
SIPP	1984-on; redesigned in 1996	U.S. Census Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous series of national panels</li> <li>14,000 to 36,700 interviewed households</li> <li>Nationally representative sample</li> <li>Each respondent is interviewed once every four months for 2.5 years, which provides longitudinal data</li> <li>Interviews conducted in person and by telephone</li> <li>All household members 15 and over are interviewed by self-response; proxies are used as needed</li> </ul>	No	Yearly		Yes
Washington	1998, 2000	WA State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Telephone surveys of 7,279</li> </ul>	Yes	2 year	Racial minority	Yes

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State Population Survey (WSPS)		Office of Financial Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>households in spring of 1998</li> <li>Eight geographical areas were established as primary sampling units for which results could be tabulated from the basic data collection</li> </ul>		intervals	groups	
Washington WorkFirst Study (WWFS)	1999-present	Social and Economic Science Research Center, at Washington State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample of 3000 current and former WorkFirst clients (Workfirst is Washington's welfare reform program)</li> <li>Respondents are reinterviewed annually</li> <li>Survey data is linked to administrative data</li> <li>Focus is not on healthcare, although measures of health and insurance are included</li> </ul>	Yes	Annual		Yes

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**Table 2. Units of Analysis**

<b>Survey</b> (see key)	<b>Units of Analysis</b>			
	Address	Household	Family	Individual
BRFSS				X
CPS		X		X
CTS			X	X
FHIS		X (for part 1 only)	X	X
MEPS-HC		X		
NHIS		X	X	X
NSAF			X	X
SIPP	X		X	X
WSPS		X	X	X
WWFS		X	X	X

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**Table 3. Support of Local Area Estimates**

<b>Survey</b> (see key)	<b>Geographic Areas</b>						
	National	Groups of States	Washington State	MSAs	Counties	Cities	Other
BRFSS	X	X	X				
CPS	X	Census Divisions	X <sup>1</sup>	Large MSAs <sup>2</sup>	Large Counties <sup>2</sup>	Large Cities <sup>2</sup>	
CTS	X		Seattle only				60 CTS Sites
FHIS			X	X	X	X	Zip code
MEPS-HC	X	Census Regions		Special Arrangement	Special Arrangement	Special Arrangement	
NHIS	X	Census Regions	Special Arrangement	Special Arrangement	Special Arrangement	Special Arrangement	
NSAF	X	X	X	X	X	X	Zip code
SIPP	X	X					
WSPS			X		King, Clark, and Spokane counties individually, otherwise regionally organized groupings of smaller counties		
WWFS			X				

<sup>1</sup> State estimates should be used with caution, particularly for small states, as standard errors may be large. The Census Bureau published state estimates on a 3-year average from the March CPS to create more stable estimates for making state-to-state comparisons.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates for these areas are possible, but may be unreliable due to large standard errors.

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**Table 4: Support of Geographic Linkage of Contextual Information**

<b>Survey</b> (see key)	<b>Geographic Areas</b>					
	Groups of States	Individual States	MSAs	Counties	Cities	Other
BRFSS	X	X				
CPS		X	X	With pop. Over 100,000	With pop. Over 100,000	
CTS		Special Arrangement <sup>1</sup>		Special Arrangement <sup>1</sup>		CTS Site by Special Arrangement <sup>a</sup>
FHIS		X	X	X	X	Zip code
MEPS-HC	Special Arrangement <sup>1</sup>	Special Arrangement <sup>1</sup>	Special Arrangement <sup>1</sup>	Special Arrangement <sup>1</sup>	Special Arrangement <sup>1</sup>	
NHIS	X	Special Arrangement <sup>1</sup>	Special Arrangement <sup>1</sup>	Special Arrangement <sup>1</sup>	Special Arrangement <sup>1</sup>	
NSAF	X	X	X	X	X	X
SIPP	X					
WSPS		X		King, Clark, and Spokane counties individually, otherwise regionally organized groupings of smaller counties		
WWFS		X				

<sup>1</sup> Limited area estimates are available by special request through a data center.

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**Table 5: Precision of Estimates**

<b>Survey</b> (see key)	Sample size	Survey design	Interviewee	Designed for state- level estimates
BRFSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 118,348 interviews nationally in 1998</li> <li>• In 2000, 3,584 interviews were conducted for WA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Households selected through random sampling of phone numbers.</li> <li>• Sampling strategy may vary slightly from state to state, but all are comparable because they yield a representative sample</li> </ul>	One adult (18+) is randomly selected from each household.	Yes
CPS	64,990 nationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panel design in which household is interviewed for 4 consecutive months, then have an 8-month rest period, then interviewed for the another four months.</li> <li>• Replenish sample each month</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual adult responds for all household residents.</li> <li>• If individual moves from household, they are dropped from sample.</li> </ul>	Yes
CTS	Nearly 33,000 families and over 60,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nationally representative cross-sectional survey</li> <li>• Data are collected in 60 randomly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual adult responds for all household adult</li> </ul>	No



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Survey (see key)	Sample size	Survey design	Interviewee	Designed for state-level estimates
	individuals	selected communities nationwide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Twelve communities are selected to be case-study areas, including Seattle, WA.</li> </ul>	residents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition, respondent supplies information on one randomly selected child in household</li> </ul>	
FHIS	Part 1: 5,322 families and 11,475 persons Part 2: 2537 families and 5871 persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Random digit dialing was used for general population frame</li> <li>For Medicaid and BHP samples lists of enrollees were used</li> <li>RDD sample was stratified based on geography and health insurance types</li> <li>Respondents were screened using Part 1 of the survey; only a subsample was asked to complete entire survey; this was designed to meet stratification goals</li> </ul>	Interviewee responds for self and all other members of household.	Yes

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Survey (see key)	Sample size	Survey design	Interviewee	Designed for state-level estimates
MEPS-HC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 8,000 and 10,000 households per panel</li> <li>Every 5 years the sample size is increased</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rotating panel design; preliminary contact followed by six rounds of interviews over a 2 1/2 year period.</li> <li>New series launched each year to provide overlapping panels.</li> </ul>	One family respondent reports for himself or herself and other family members.	No, and it is not possible to obtain state-level estimates.

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Survey (see key)	Sample size	Survey design	Interviewee	Designed for state-level estimates
NHIS	Approximately 43,000 households and 106,000 individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stratified multi-stage sample design</li> <li>• NHIS uses stratification, clustering and differential sampling rates</li> <li>• Cross-sectional</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For family core: All family members are invited to respond for themselves. For children and adults who are not at home, a responsible adult family member may respond.</li> <li>• For adult core: One randomly selected adult responds for herself (no proxies permitted).</li> <li>• For child core: Most knowledgeable adult responds.</li> </ul>	No

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<b>Survey</b> (see key)	Sample size	Survey design	Interviewee	Designed for state- level estimates
NSAF	In 1999, 42,000 households and more than 109,000 non- elderly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main sample consisted of a random-digit dial survey of households with telephones</li> <li>• Also included area probability sample of households without telephones</li> </ul>	Most knowledgeable adult responded for herself, spouse/partner, and family.	
SIPP	14,000 to 36,700 interviewed households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The survey design is a continuous series of national panels.</li> <li>• The duration of each panel ranges from 2 1/2 years to 4 years.</li> <li>• The SIPP sample is a multistage-stratified sample of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews are conducted with all individuals aged 15 and older. Proxies are permitted when necessary.</li> <li>• If individual moves from household, they are followed to new household, and new housemates are included in sample.</li> </ul>	No
WSPS	7,279 in 1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General population sample was drawn from a random sample of all WA households</li> <li>• General population sample is stratified into eight geographic regions (target for each region was</li> </ul>	Interviewee responds for self and all other members of household.	Yes

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Survey (see key)	Sample size	Survey design	Interviewee	Designed for state-level estimates
		<p>750 respondents).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supplemental statewide samples of African Americans, Asians, Hispanics, and Native Americans were drawn from Census tracts containing the highest number of the ethnic minority group. Target for each group was 400 respondents.</li> </ul>		
WWFS	3,037 respondents as of 5/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample restricted to current and former WorkFirst clients, who are reinterviewed annually.</li> </ul>	Interviewee responds for self and all other members of household.	Yes

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**Table 6: Bias of estimates**

<b>Survey</b> (see key)	Interview mode	Response rate	Potential sources of non-response bias
BRFSS	Telephone	76.5% nationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only households with telephones are included</li> <li>Only one person per household is interviewed, may not be representative</li> </ul>
CTS	Primarily telephone interviews; additional in person interviews for sample of households without telephone.	65% between 1996-1997 (Lewis et al., 1998)	To reduce non-response bias, included a field sample of households without telephones
CPS	In person and by telephone, varies over the course of interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>93% overall (Fronstein, SHADAC) 80-82% completed the March supplement</li> <li>43.2% in 1998 (Atrostic et al. 1999)</li> </ul>	
FHIS	Primarily telephone interviews; additional in person interviews for sample of households without telephone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>69.2% for RDD sample</li> <li>42.9% for Medicaid sample</li> <li>73.4% for BHP list sample</li> <li>51.5% for field sample</li> </ul>	To reduce non-response bias, included a field sample of households without telephones
MEPS-HC	In person; except that initial contact is by mail and telephone and final interview is by telephone	65.2% for Panel 4 in early 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces bias through mail follow-up for households without phones.</li> </ul>

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<b>Survey</b> (see key)	Interview mode	Response rate	Potential sources of non-response bias
NHIS	Face-to-face interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>67.5% in 1998 (Atrostic et al. 1999)</li> <li>reported as greater than 90% on NCHS webpage</li> </ul>	
NSAF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Telephone</li> <li>For those interviewees without telephones, in person interviewers provided respondents with cellular phones, and interviews were conducted via cell phones</li> </ul>	Approximately 64% in 1999	To reduce non-response bias, included a field sample of households without telephones
SIPP	Face-to-face interviews, with follow-ups conducted over telephone	79.1% in 1998 (Atrostic et al. 1999)	
WSPS	Telephone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>59% for general population</li> <li>43% for expanded sample</li> </ul>	Only households with telephones were included
WWFS		<i>Waiting for data</i>	